

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCI-06 CU-04

STR-08 DRC-01 /181 W

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R 211425Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9194

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EEC NATO DA

SUBJ: RADICAL LIBERAL VOICES CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC CONTENT OF
OTTAWA DELCARATION

1. RADICAL LIBERAL DEFENSE SPOKESMAN, JENS BILGRAV-NIELSEN,
HAS CALLED ON DEFENSE MINITER ERLING BRONDUM TO TESTIFY
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BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CONCERNING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

PASSAGES IN NATO DECLARATION. HE TOLD PRESS THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG NATO COUNTRIES WERE MENTIONED IN AN ALLIANCE DECLARATION AND SAID THAT BRONDUM'S ROLE IN PREPARING THIS NEW ANGLE SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND TRADE COOPERATION DOES NOT BELONG IN NATO, HE SAID, BUT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

2. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, QUICKLY AGREED THAT BRONDUM SHOULD CONSULT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES BUT ADDED PARTLY THAT BILGRAV-NIELSEN WAS EVIDENTLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH TEXT OF ATLANTIC TREATY, WHICH CONTAINS LANGUAGE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION EVEN STRONGER THAN THAT IN OTTAWA DECLARATION. RADICAL SPOKESMAN RESPONDED THAT ANDERSEN SHOULD SPARE HIMSELF THE SARCASM, FOR HIS OWN DESIRE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH BRONDUM SHOWS THAT HE WANTS FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DCM, NEITHER MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN NOR KNUD DAMGAARD, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WHO IS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS, WERE INCLINED TO TAKE RADICAL LIBERAL GAMBIT TOO SERIOUSLY AS IMMEDIATE THREAT TO DANISH RELATIONS WITH NATO. BILGRAV-NIELSEN'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF ECONOMIC PASSAGES IN DECLARATION SHOULD BE SEEN, RATHER, AS REFLECTION OF RADICAL LEADERS' RECENT EFFORTS TO COUNTER CONTINUING DECLINE IN THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT. NATIONAL MEETING OF THEIR PARTY EARLIER THIS MONTH SHOWED NOTICEABLE TENDENCY FOR TRADITIONAL HARD CORE OF RADICAL MOVEMENT, WITH ITS STRONG OVERTONES OF PACIFICISM, TO RETURN TO THE SURFACE. ALTHOUGH THIS TACTIC MAY CREATE PROBLEMS BY ENCOURAGING OTHER PARTIES TO ADOPT MORE CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD DEFENSE SPENDING, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD ADD APPRECIABLY TO ELECTORAL STRENGTH OF RADICAL LIBERALS. ALTHOUGH ANTI-MILITARY SENTIMENT DOES CONTINUE TO EXIST IN DENMARK, BULK OF IT WHICH IS NOT ALREADY WITHIN RADICAL FOLD IS TOO FAR ON THE LEFT TO MOVE EASILY IN ITS DIRECTION. CROWE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DECLARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740163-0641
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740626/aaaaavlt.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADICAL LIBERAL VOICES CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC CONTENT OF OTTAWA DELCARATION
TAGS: PFOR, DA, EEC, NATO, (BILGRAV-NIELSEN, JENS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005